

Communication Matters

Volume 5, Issue 9 • June 2005

2005 DODHH Silent Retreat!

July 15-17, 2005

Roscommon, MI

\$160 for 2 nights, 5 meals, classes,
and fun at the lake!

Registration Deadline:

June 20, 2005

Purpose:

The annual Silent Retreat provides an opportunity for those with basic American Sign Language skills to improve their skills through full immersion in Deaf culture in a casual and relaxed setting. Various activities throughout the weekend allow participants a chance to expand their skills and awareness of Deaf culture and to interact with Deaf adults.

For Whom:

Adults age 18 and older who have completed one year or two ASL college courses or the equivalent.

Take this opportunity to improve your sign language skills!

For more information:

Phone: 877-499-6232 V/TTY

dodhh@michigan.gov

<http://www.mcdc-dodhh.org/>

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Connection Presents:

Silent Celebration

September 10 and 11, 2005

Muskegon, MI



A weekend festival at Heritage Landing in Muskegon featuring nationally known performers, speakers, and entertainment for the whole family. For more information contact Deaf & Hard of Hearing Connection at 231/737-4414 x 35 or Fax/TTY 231/737-4463 or see:

www.dhhc.org

Communication Matters: Working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

The Details

When?

June 27, 2005

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where?

Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Riverwalk Building

750 Front Street, NW, Suite 211

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Cost?

This workshop is FREE, courtesy of Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Registration is required and space is limited to 30 people.

Who Should Attend?

- Anyone with hard of hearing or deaf co-workers, supervisors, or clients.
- Counselors, case managers, receptionists, managers, educators, employers.
- People who work for Community Mental Health, Substance Abuse Treatment Centers, Michigan Works!, or any human service agency.
- Anyone who cares about integration and accommodations for people with the most common disability in the United States.

Please Register » Space is Limited

Call: Ann Koch @ 616-242-6473

Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net.

Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.

Addiction Help!

Online Support for People with Hearing Loss

For a person who is addicted to drugs or alcohol, and who is also deaf or hard of hearing, finding support for recovery is almost impossible. Around the United States, there are a handful of substance abuse treatment programs striving to meet the communication needs of people with hearing loss. The biggest challenges occur when the newly sober person returns home.

Twelve-step support groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, are often inaccessible. People who are hard of hearing struggle to hear during group discussions. People who are deaf may need a sign language interpreter to participate (an additional cost that is difficult for volunteer groups to manage). A new web site has been developed in hopes of bridging the communication needs of this population.

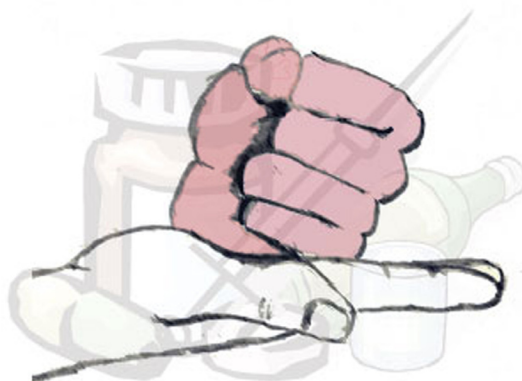
Addiction Help! Deaf & Hard of Hearing is a project of the Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. The organization, comprised of agencies, business, and individuals who serve the deaf and hard of hearing community, is the sponsor of E-Michigan Deaf & Hard of Hearing People web site (www.michdhh.org). This is a highly popular site, initiated with a grant from SBC Communications Inc., featuring information, resources, news, and an extensive calendar of deaf and hard of hearing related events in Michigan. Addiction Help! is located on the E-Michigan web site, and can also be accessed directly at www.addictionhelpdhh.org

SBC Communications Inc. and the SBC Foundation recently awarded the Coalition an additional grant to develop the interactive substance abuse recovery web site, bringing the total company support to over \$100,000 since the year 2000. The site features links to online 12-step type support groups on the web. Some of the support groups are especially for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Others are for the general population and, because of the text format of discussions, are more accessible to those unable to adequately hear and comprehend speech. These online groups are accessible and available 24 hours a day!

Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing, and Speech Services (the parent organization for the Michigan Coalition) has set up a computer for community members to use during business hours in Lansing, Michigan. The Internet is also accessible to the public through libraries, schools, coffee shops, agencies, or from home.

Another unique feature of the web site is video clips that use American Sign Language (ASL) to describe the steps used by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups. These video clips were donated by the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals and can be viewed on most computers.

Addiction Help! Deaf & Hard of Hearing is the only place on the web that strives to list all of Michigan's deaf and hard of hearing accessible substance abuse recovery resources, including interpreted AA meetings. Service providers who are not listed on the site, and who provide communication accessible services (in ASL and/or provide assistive listening equipment), should contact the web site editor for inclusion. Browsers will also find basic information about substance abuse and links to information specific to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



Visit Addiction Help! Deaf & Hard of Hearing today, and share it with others who may benefit. The address is www.addictionhelpdhh.org

The Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People is a statewide coalition of agencies and organizations working together to improve accessibility and services for Michigan's Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

The SBC Foundation is the charitable giving arm of SBC Communications Inc. The SBC Foundation supports efforts that enrich and strengthen diverse communities nationwide, particularly those with an emphasis on education and technology and those that benefit underserved populations. SBC Foundation-backed programs are designed to increase access to information technologies, broaden technology training and professional skills development, and effectively integrate new technologies to enhance education and economic development. Additional information about SBC and SBC products and services is available at www.sbc.com.